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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT TAP, Portuguese Airlines, Equipment/TAP and Alitalia Competition Problems

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1. "From discussions with Mr. Carregal Ferreira, TAP [Transportes Aereos Portugueses] Maintenance Supervisor; and Mr. Dionisio de Oliveira, in charge of power plant maintenance; both at Portela Airport, Lisbon, [redacted] TAP has ordered three Super-Constellations for delivery in 1955.
2. "When the Super-Constellation airplanes are delivered, the TAP fleet will consist of the following:

six DC-3's
three DC-4's
three Super-Constellations
3. "TAP is suffering from severe competition with the Viscount [British four turbo-prop, 40-48 passenger airliner] and the Canadair DC-4M on its service between Lisbon and London.
4. "BEA [British European Airways Corporation] is flying first-class Viscount service and filling it up, whereas the TAP DC-4 first-class service is running around 50 per cent load factor. (Incidentally, the Canadair with the cross-over stack system makes a very fine airplane for plush first-class services and it is anticipated that this airplane will remain a work horse for BOAC [which has over 20] for some time to come.)
5. "Besides TAP, Alitalia [Aerolinee Italiane Internazionali] and other airlines in this [European] area are also experiencing severe competition from the Viscount services. For example, late in [redacted] I was unable to obtain a seat on the BEA Viscount flight from London to Rome because it was full. I made the flight by Alitalia, stopping at Paris on the way. Admittedly the Alitalia flight was not direct service; however, on this occasion Alitalia carried three passengers from London to Paris and seven passengers to Rome."

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